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Statement submitted by World Family Organization, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.

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Statement

World family summit 2015 declaration

Transforming our World: A New Era for Families: Framing the Sustainable Development Goals at the Smallest Unit of Social Capital — The Family — The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Ministers with the Family portfolio, Members and Partners of the World Family Organization, representatives of government agencies at the national and local levels, non-governmental organizations, academia, parliaments, the private sector, the media, families and youth delegates and counting with 268 participants from 62 countries representing all continents of the world, participated in the World Family Summit 2015, in Cairo Egypt, December 10 to 12, 2015, and having fulfilled the Summit's Agenda "Transforming our World: A New Agenda for Action Framing the Sustainable Development Goals at the Smallest Unit of Social Capital The Family" unanimously approved the Cairo Declaration which included:

- Acknowledgment that the last 11 editions of the World Family Summits became the biggest international platform for multi-stakeholder partnership towards helping the present and the future world to be more integrated, more peaceful, with security, justice, tolerance and prosperity by mobilizing and promoting the basic economic, political, sociocultural and sustainable unit of the society — The Family;

- Recognition that the Millennium Development Goals helped to galvanize development efforts, improved the situation of many families, saved the lives of those threatened by extreme poverty, diseases and hunger, reduced child and maternal mortality, improved the health of people with HIV/AIDS and other non-communicable diseases, decreased the number of children out of school, improved gender equality and participation of women, increased access to clean drinking water and sanitation, raised awareness on environmental issues and improved global partnership for development;

- Recognition that despite those achievements many challenges still remain, progress in human development continues to be uneven, leaving many families behind, therefore it is an urgent need to find new development pathways for transformative changes towards global, inclusive, people-centred and planet-sensitive sustainable development to ensure human dignity, equality, environmental stewardship, healthy economies, freedom from want and fear and renewed global partnership;

- Reaffirmed that the Family, as the basic unit of society, is a powerful agent for sustainable, social, economic, environmental and cultural development, including peace and security, bearing the primary responsibility for the care, development and protection of children, as well as instilling values of citizenship and belonging to the society;

- Recognition that Agenda 2030 is a plan of action for people, planet and prosperity and it also seeks to strengthen universal peace in larger freedom and recognize that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development and that we all have to take the bold

and transformative steps needed to shift the world onto a sustainable and resilient path, in a collective journey and leaving no one behind;

- Welcomed the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 targets which were announced at the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit 25-27 September 2015, demonstrating the scale and ambition of this new universal Agenda, building on the Millennium Development Goals and completing what was not achieved and as an integrated, indivisible agenda balancing the three dimensions of sustainable development: the economic, social and environmental, stimulating action over the next 15 years in areas of critical importance for humanity, families and the planet;

And having discussed and agreed upon the essential elements of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted by the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit we decided that we are fully committed to its implementation, to inspire and guide our countries and partners to start a new era, framing the approach to development into the Global Goals, which call for an integrated policy approach to ensure inclusive economic development, inclusive social development, environmental sustainability, peace and security that responds to the aspirations of all families worldwide.

Building on the legacy of previous World Family Summits and their Declarations, the Cairo Declaration was a new historic commitment by all of us to help transform the lives of families worldwide through a new vision of development, with bold and innovative actions, to reach our ambitious goals by 2030.

In the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals and Targets, the Cairo Declaration recommended the consideration of the following family related issues as the main topics for mainstreaming and actions at the local, national and regional levels reaffirming our commitments to advocate family friendly policy formulation and family friendly services delivery to:

1. Support the implementation of the SDGs assuring that no one will be left behind including families in rural areas and families in conflict and post conflict areas and the most vulnerable will be reached first.
2. Advocate and promote the role of the family in the implementation of SDGs.
3. Reinforce family focused laws and policies that promote sustainable development.
4. Translate SDGs into family focused policies, legislations and implementation plans.
5. Enhance top level policy design and improve legislation and policies such as home community based public design.
6. Empower official and voluntary mechanisms that work on family issues in order to be able to implement the SDGs in the context of the family.
7. Encourage international and regional partnerships for the well-being of the family.

8. Implement capacity-building programmes for families on the management of resources for sustainable development.

9. Take into consideration the interest of the family in housing, health, income generation, education and social security.

10. Assist in eradicating extreme poverty for all people and everywhere by implementing policies and programs that end poverty in all its dimensions.

11. Advocate for the implementation of comprehensive social protection systems since they are powerful tools to strengthen the resilience of families in times of economic crisis and political instability and natural disasters.

12. Support international dialogue on social protection policies and advocate for the importance of providing support to countries in costing comprehensive social protection and building social protection floors.

13. Promote family focused social protection programs and approaches enabling family empowerment.

14. Advocate for quality early childhood education to ensure a successful generation with less drop out and less repeating grades.

15. Assist in implementing early childhood development programs since they are the biggest investment for countries to ensure and realize sustainable development as a long term effect in terms of economic growth towards breaking the intergenerational cycle of poverty.

16. Advocate for paying more attention to older people's social participation such as social organizations, volunteer service activities, cultural and entertainment activities, and others such as education, counselling, public welfare, self-service, business operation, housework, etc.

17. Advocate for adopting family focused policies and enforcing legislation that foster gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all areas and at all levels.

18. Advocate and promote family focused policies and programs fostering the elimination of all forms of violence against women and children in the public and private spheres including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation.

19. Advocate for family focused policies and programs emphasizing the elimination of all harmful practices such as child early marriage, forced marriage and female genital mutilation.

20. Advocate and promote for a collective shift, within families and houscholds towards well-being derived from modes of living and livelihoods that are more equitable, sustainable, and have less impact on the environment, with a focus on innovation and more effective collective action on global challenges.

21. Advocate and promote family friendly policies that make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, gender-neutral and sustainable ensuring provision of capacity-building programs for families.

22. Advocate and influence the trajectory of sustainable consumption patterns within families and households while enhancing dignity and social sustainability by investing in universal public services accessible to all families and households, which ensure that the fruits of development are distributed to all, without discrimination.

The World Family Organization with its members and partners believes that addressing and reinforcing these recommendations during the next decade will ensure a family friendly post-2015 development agenda implementation that covers the three dimensions of sustainable development, strengthening families the basic supporters and recipients of a more peaceful, equal and sustainable world.